

GENESIS

The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.”

And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man¹ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

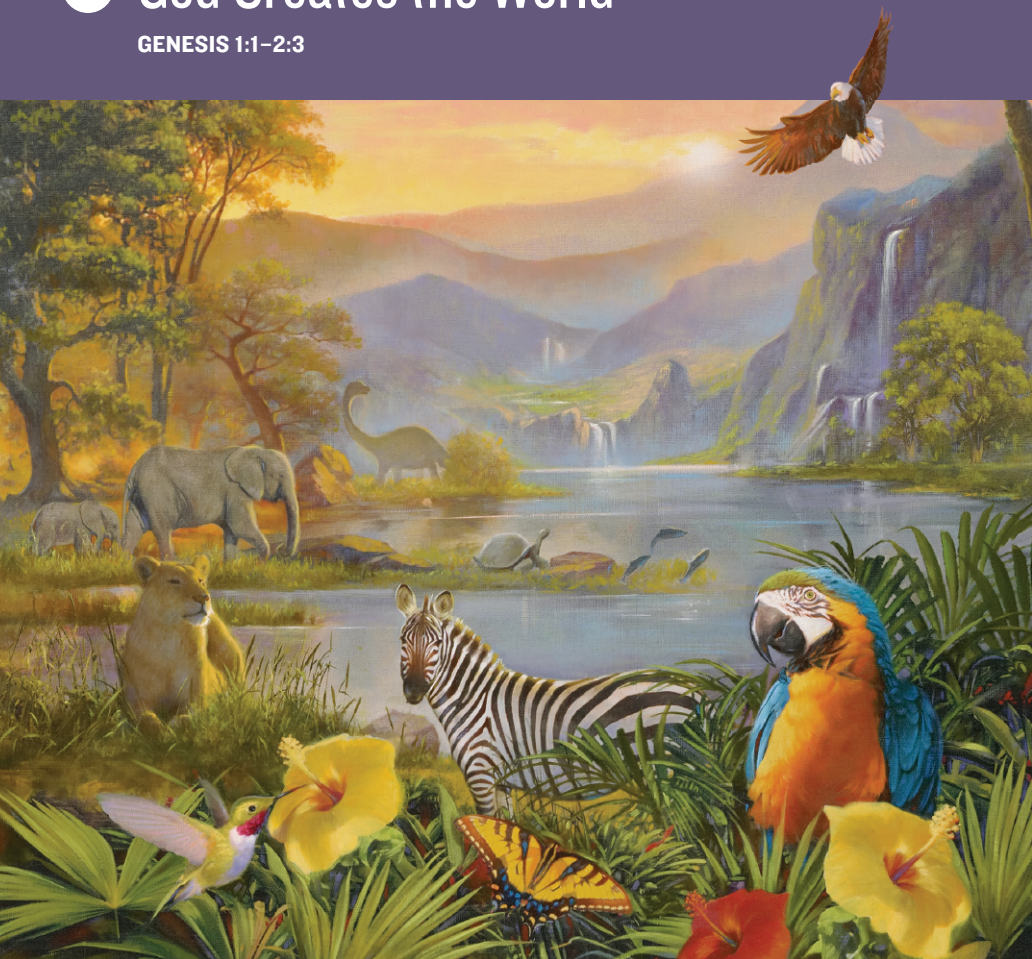
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the

¹ The Hebrew word used here for *man* includes both men and women (see 1:27) and refers to the entire human race (see Preface)

1 God Creates the World

GENESIS 1:1–2:3



Long, long ago there was no world. There were no birds and bees, no fields and flowers, no lakes and rivers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. There were no people either. There was only God.

Then God created the heavens and the earth in six days. He made all there is out of nothing with the power of his word. All he had to do was speak and the entire earth and all the animals appeared. On the first day, God said, “Let there be light”—and there it was! The Bible says, “God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

On the second day, God spoke again. On this day he made the sky above, which separates the waters above from the waters below.

On the third day, God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” In this way, God made mountains and hills, valleys and plains. Here and there, all over the land,

were lakes and rivers, and around it all, the great oceans. God spoke again, and plants covered the land. Grass, flowers, bushes, and trees of every kind grew. Many of the bushes had berries, and many of the trees had fruit. God gave the plants seeds so that more plants could always grow. And God saw that what he had done was good.

On the fourth day, God spoke again and made still more. This time God spoke and at once the sky was filled with lights. He made the sun and the moon and all the stars. God saw that his lights were good.

The earth was beautiful now, but God made it even better. On the fifth day, God spoke and made fish to fill the waters and birds to fly in the sky. God saw that all of his creatures were good. He blessed them and told them to have babies, so that the waters and the skies would be filled with more fish and more birds.

Once more, on the sixth day, God spoke and created land animals. Bees flew from flower to flower. Cats and dogs played in the fields. Horses and cows walked around looking for food. Last of all, God made the first people, Adam and Eve, in his image and his likeness. He told them to rule over all the living things that he had made. God looked at everything that he had made, and he saw that it was very good.

God made all there is out of nothing with just the power of his word. He only had to say, “Let it be,” and everything was made. Finally, on the seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day, and set it apart for a special purpose—rest.

Right now God is in heaven making a new heavenly home for everyone who has faith in God and in what he has done for them. Because of Christ’s work on the cross, one day God will graciously give this new heavenly home to all his children who have faith in Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

God made everything just by speaking. What does that tell us about God?

Every bird, animal, plant, and fish was created exactly as it needs to be to live in the place where it lives. What does that tell us about God?

How should we treat the world around us, knowing that God made it?

KEY VERSE

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

GENESIS 1:1

2 God Creates Adam and Eve

GENESIS 1:26–2:25



A very, very long time ago, there was no earth or sky, no trees or plants, not even one animal, and no people at all. Then, by the power of his word, God made the world and everything in it out of nothing. Finally, on the sixth day of creation, after God had finished making everything else, he made people. The Lord God made people different from all other creatures, because he made them in his own image.

The Lord made the very first man out of the dust of the ground and called him Adam. He breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Before God made Adam, he planted a beautiful garden in a place called Eden. God made all kinds of trees to grow in the garden—beautiful trees, full of delicious fruit. Two very special trees grew in the garden. One was called “the tree of life,” and the other was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The Lord God placed Adam in the garden and gave him

the job of working in the garden and taking care of all the trees and plants. Then God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden, except the fruit of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then the Lord said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” So God brought every animal and every bird for Adam to give a name, but not one of the animals was found to be a good helper for Adam.

Then the Lord caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep, the Lord took out one of Adam’s ribs, and then he closed up the opening. From the rib that the Lord had taken from Adam the Lord God made the first woman and brought her to Adam. Adam said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” The woman became Adam’s wife, and Adam called her Eve.

God, our heavenly Father, took care of all their needs. God always takes care of the needs of his own people. He took care of our greatest need when he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for the sins of his people. Through Jesus, God gives his people salvation and everlasting life.

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

How are people different from everything else God made?

What did God tell Adam he must not do?

How should we treat others, knowing that they are made in God’s image?

KEY VERSE

“God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’”

GENESIS 1:26

earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD¹ God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of
Man.”²²

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

¹ The word *LORD*, when spelled with small capital letters, translates the Hebrew word for God’s personal name, *Yahweh* (see Preface) ² The Hebrew words for *woman* (*ishshah*) and *man* (*ish*) sound alike

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.¹

²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

¹ Eve sounds like the Hebrew for life-giver

3 Sin Enters the World

GENESIS 3



God had told Adam and Eve that they must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was in the middle of the garden. But one day a serpent came into the garden and said to Eve, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” This serpent was Satan, the enemy of God.

Eve told the serpent that they could eat fruit from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden. If they ate that fruit, God had said they would die. But the serpent lied to Eve: “You will not surely die,” he said. “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.”

Eve listened to Satan’s lie and was tempted. She took some fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

Adam and Eve did not trust God. They did not obey him. This was the first sin.

Adam and Eve knew right away that they had done wrong, and they tried

to hide from God. God came into the garden and called out to Adam, “Where are you?” After Adam and Eve blamed others for their sin, God told them what would happen because of their sin. The snake would crawl around on its belly all its days. Eve would have pain in childbirth. Adam would have trouble growing food to eat, because from now on working the ground would be hard. And Adam and Eve would not live forever—they would grow old and die.

But God also gave Adam and Eve a wonderful promise. He promised that a child would be born someday who would grow up to bruise the serpent’s head, even though the serpent would bruise this man’s heel. This was the first promise that God would send a Savior to save us from our sin.

Then God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. They could never go back to the beautiful place that God had made for them, and they would have to find a new home.

Adam and Eve were the very first people to sin. They brought sin into the world. But God still loved them very much, and so he gave them the promise that one day a Savior would come. Many years later, God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth. Satan came to Jesus too, and tempted him to disobey God, but Jesus did not listen to Satan. Jesus lived his whole life without sin. Then he suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world and rose from the dead to give us eternal life.

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

What was the first sin?

Who did God promise would come one today?

What sin do you see in you own life? What is God doing about it?

KEY VERSE

“The **LORD** God said to the serpent, . . . ‘I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’”

GENESIS 3:14, 15

4 Cain and Abel

GENESIS 4:1-16



Adam and Eve were the first husband and wife, and they became the first mommy and daddy. They had two sons, Cain and Abel. When Cain grew up, he became a farmer. When Abel grew up, he became a shepherd.

Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God. Cain brought an offering of things he had grown, “the fruit of the ground.” Abel brought an offering of some of his sheep. The difference was that Abel offered his sacrifice with faith in God.

God was pleased with Abel's offering, but he was not pleased with Cain's. This made Cain very angry. The Lord warned Cain not to sin. But Cain didn't listen to God.

One day, when the two brothers were out in the field together, Cain killed his brother, Abel.

God came to Cain again. “Where is Abel your brother?” God asked him. Cain answered, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”

But God knew what Cain had done. “The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground,” God said to Cain. God told him that he would be cursed because of what he had done. He would no longer find it easy to grow food in the ground. He would have to run away from people, and he would always have to wander throughout the earth.

“My punishment is greater than I can bear,” Cain said. “Whoever finds me will kill me.”

Even though Cain had sinned, God showed mercy to Cain. He put a mark on Cain to protect him. People who saw this mark would know they should not kill Cain. Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and from his mother and father, and he built a city in another place.

When God saw Abel's blood, he punished Cain for what he had done. Jesus was also killed by human hands, but he died willingly in the place of his people. When God sees the blood of Jesus, he forgives the sins of all who trust him as their Savior.

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

What did God do in this story that shows us he hates sin?

What did God do in this story that shows us he is merciful?

What does this story tell us about how we should worship God?

KEY VERSE

“This is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.”

1 JOHN 3:11-12